

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 059178

61

ORIGIN AF-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66611

DRAFTED BY: AF/S:SFMCDONALD:LOF

APPROVED BY: AF/S:SFMCDONALD

----- 091193

R 171758Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059178

FOR POST FROM O'NEILL

FOLLOWING REPEAT LUANDA 256 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
LISBON KINSHASA LUSAKA LONDON PRETORIA CAPE TOWN
7 MARCH.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0256

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: ROUND UP OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. SUMMARY. CLOSER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COOPERATION BETWEEN FNLA
AND UNITA HAS BEEN EVIDENCED IN RECENT DAYS. THE TRANSITIONAL
GOVERNMENT IS HAMSTRUNG BY ITS INABILITY TO MUSTER A TWO-
THIRDS MAJORITY ON IMPORTANT ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EVIDENCE OF CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN UNITA AND FNLA
HAS RECENTLY MOUNTED. WITH ONLY ONE MINOR EXCEPTION (SEE BELOW)
THE PUBLIC UTTERANCES AND COMMUNIQUE OF THE TWO GROUPS
HAVE SHOWN A REMARKABLE CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS ON IMPORTANT ISSUES.
THEY ARE ATTRACTED BY THEIR MUTUAL DISLIKE FOR MPLA, AND THEIR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 059178

COMMON GROUND IS GENERALLY FOUND IN OPPOSITION TO WHATEVER MPLA

SUPPORTS. THIS HAS BEEN TRUE IN THE RUNNING FEUD OVER THE OFFICIAL RADIO, WHICH STILL TILTS NOTICEABLY TOWARD MPLA. UNITA HAS BEEN HAMMERING AT THIS PROBLEM FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN COMMUNIQUE, SPEECHES AND INTERVIEWS. FNLA HAS BEEN CONCENTRATING ITS ATTACKS AGAINST THE "POPULAR POWER" MOVEMENT OF MPLA. BOTH PARTIES HAVE JOINTLY BLAMED MPLA FOR THE LABOR SITUATION IN ANGOLA'S MAJOR PORTS. IN OUR TALKS WITH OFFICIALS OF UNITA AND FNLA WE HAVE BEEN TOLD OF THE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MOVEMENTS. A HIGH FNLA SOURCE TOLD A CONGEN OFFICER THAT UNITA AND FNLA HAVE AGREED ON A MILITARY PLAN TO MOP-UP MPLA IN A TWO-DAY ACTION, IF THEY ARE PUSHED TOO FAR.

3. THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED VOLUMINOUS MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE THE PORT CONGESTION IN LUANDA AND LOBITO. MOST WERE COSMETIC REFORMS OF WORKING CONDITIONS BUT TROOPS FROM THE NEWLY FORMED FORCA INTEGRADA (FI) WILL BE POSTED TO THE PORT, UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE PORTUGUESE PORT CAPTAIN, TO ENCOURAGE THE WORKERS TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY. THE WORKERS PROTESTED THE DISPATCH OF THE TROOPS AND, AS YET, THE 196 MAN CONTINGENT HAS NOT APPEARED ON THE DOCKS. FNLA, FOR ONE, IS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT THE MEASURE WILL PRODUCE THE NEEDED RESULTS AND FAVORS FIRING THE WORKERS EN MASSE AND BRINGING IN NEW LABORERS, PERHAPS THUS PROVIDING JOBS FOR RETURNING REFUGEES FROM ZAIRE. VISITS TO THE PORT BY CONGEN OFFICERS AND TALKS WITH SHIPPING AGENTS SHOW THAT THE ONE WEEK OLD DECREE HAS HAD NO NOTICEABLE EFFECT ON THE LOADING OR UNLOADING RATES.

4. IN A PRESS INTERVIEW, FNLA'S MEMBER OF THE COLEGIAL PRESIDENCY, JOHNNY EDUARDO, PLACED THE BLAME FOR THE INACTIVITY OF THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT ON THE CONSISTENT ABSTENTION FROM VOTING BY TWO PORTUGUESE MINISTERS. THIS WAS EXPANDED UPON BY EDUARDO'S AIDE IN A CONVERSATION WITH A CONGEN OFFICER. HE EXPLAINED THAT OF THE 22 VOTES IN THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT (12 MINISTERS, 9 SECRETARIES OF STATE AND ONE VOTE FOR THE COLEGIAL PRESIDENCY), THE FNLA/UNITA COALITION COULD MUSTER ONLY 13 (SIX MINISTERS, SIX SECRETARIES AND THE COLEGIAL PRESIDENCY) WHEN 14 WERE NEEDED FOR A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY. ONE PORTUGUESE MINISTER CONSISTENTLY VOTED FOR MPLA AND THE OTHER TWO REGULARLY ABSTAINED. UNLESS AT LEAST ONE PORTUGUESE COULD BE ENLISTED TO VOTE WITH FNLA/UNITA, MPLA IN EFFECT WOULD HOLD A VETO OVER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 059178

ALL ACTIONS OF THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. THIS, EXPLAINED EDUARDO'S AIDE, WAS THE REASON WHY SO FEW DECISIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED SO FAR. EDUARDO STATED HE WOULD RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND EXPLAIN TO HIM THE NEED TO REQUIRE A VOTE BY THE PORTUGUESE MINISTERS.

5. THE ONE BREAK IN THE OTHERWISE SOLID UNITA/FNLA FRONT CAME IN BENGUELA AS A RESULT OF THE TAKE-OVER OF THE PRIVATELY

OWNED LOCAL RADIO CLUB BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THREE LIBERATION GROUPS, PRESUMABLY DONE ON LOCAL INITIATIVE. UNITA'S HEADQUARTERS LATER COUNTERMANDED ITS LOCAL CHIEF AND UNITA PULLED OUT OF THE OCCUPATION, OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE THE ACTION WAS AN ILLEGAL SEIZURE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY. THIS LEFT FNLA AND MPLA AS STRANGE BEDFELLOWS.

6. THERE HAVE BEEN SCATTERED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE IN THE INTERIOR. IN QUIMBELE, 200 KM NORTHEAST OF CARMONA, A HAND GRENADE WAS TOSSED INTO A UNITA POLITICAL RALLY, CONDUCTED UNDER THE PROTECTION OF FNLA TROOPS. FOURTEEN PEOPLE WERE WOUNDED, INCLUDING TWO FNLA SOLDIERS. FNLA THEN APPARENTLY LOST CONTROL OF ITS TROOPS, WHO TERRORIZED THE TOWN AND ITS INHABITANTS FOR TWO DAYS BEFORE ORDER WAS RESTORED. FNLA PUBLISHED A COMMUNIQUE, APPEALING TO THE CITIZENS OF QUIMBELE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES AND ASSURING THEM ORDER WAS RESTORED. IN SALAZAR, NOW CALLED DALATANDO, MPLA TROOPS OPEN FIRE ON THE FNLA DELEGATION, IN AN ATTEMPT TO FREE AN MPLA LEADER BEING HELD THERE. TWO BYSTANDERS WERE KILLED. TRAFFIC THROUGH THE TOWN WAS OUT FOR SEVERAL HOURS UNTIL THE PORTUGUESE ARMY MEDIATED THE DISPUTE AND FREED THE MPLA LEADER.

7. THE BAD BLOOD BETWEEN UNITA AND MPLA WAS INCREASED AS THE RESULT OF DELIBERATE HARRASSMENT OF UNITA'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND, NIZAU PUNA, AT A ROADBLOCK IN CABINDA. PUNA, A CABINDAN, TRAVELING WITH AN ARMED UNITA ESCORT, WAS STOPPED WHILE RE-ENTERING CABINDA CITY BY SOME OVERZEALOUS MPLA TROOPS WHO ASSERTED HE HAD FORCED HIS WAY THROUGH THE ROADBLOCK AS HE LEFT THE CITY EARLIER THAT DAY. HE WAS FORCED OUT OF HIS VEHICLE AND TOLD TO REPORT TO THE POLITICAL COMMISSAR TO CLEAR UP THE PROBLEM. HE REFUSED TO GO AND THE MPLA COMMISSAR REFUSED TO COME TO HIM. AFTER A LONG WAIT AND A THREAT TO USE FORCE BY PUNA HE WAS PERMITTED TO PASS. PUNA PUBLICLY ASSAILED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 059178

MPLA FOR THIS INCIDENT.

8. MPLA IS MORE FREQUENTLY FINDING ITSELF ISOLATED ON MANY ISSUES. NETO HAS BEEN ONLY MODERATELY ACTIVE IN POLITICKING SINCE HIS RETURN A MONTH AGO AND HAS NOT IGNITED ANY GREAT PUBLIC ENTHUSIASM. SEVERAL VARIED SOURCES, INCLUDING ONE DISGRUNTLED LONG-TIME MPLA SUPPORTER, HAVE TOLD US MPLA IS GRADUALLY LOSING POPULAR SUPPORT IN LUANDA. THE MOST OFTEN STATED REASON FOR THIS IS MPLA BACKING FOR THE STRIKES AND NETO'S LISTLESS PUBLIC STYLE. UNITA SEEMS TO BE GAINING STRENGTH, WITH LONG LINES OF PEOPLE AT ITS LUANDA HEADQUARTERS WAITING TO ENROLL. (A CONGEN OFFICER WHO SAW THE LINES SAYS 10 PERCENT OF THOSE WAITING WERE WHITES.) FNLA CONTINUES TO TALK TOUGH BUT PULLS ITS PUNCHES.

KILLORAN UNQUOTE ROBINSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES, LIBERATION FRONTS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE059178
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/S:SFMCDONALD:LOF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750093-0497
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750343/aaaabmyl.tel
Line Count: 169
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROUND UP OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY
TAGS: PINT, AO, FNLA, UNITA, (EDUARDO, JOHNNY)
To: OTTAWA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006